

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 4-11, 26-28, 30, 32-35, 37-40, and 42-44 are pending. Claims 1, 4, 5, 11, 26, and 31 have been amended. Claims 3, 31, 36, and 41 have been cancelled. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of this application are respectfully requested.

In the August 20, 2007 Final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1, 2, 4-11, 26-28, 30-35, 37-40, and 42-44. Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 30, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given U.S. Patent No. 6,628,313 to Minakuchi et al. ("Minakuchi") in view of U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0001111 to Fitzmaurice et al. ("Fitzmaurice"). Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice and PCT Publication No. WO 02/21529 to Barbieri ("Barbieri"). Claims 32 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and the Examiner's Official Notice that providing the ability to control the direction and speed of playback of a video stream is well-known in the art. Claims 33 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0264579 to Bhatia et al. ("Bhatia"). Claims 34 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0146915 to Brook et al. ("Brook"). Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0030665 to Ano ("Ano"). Claims 26-28 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano. Claim 42 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and the Examiner's Official Notice that providing the ability to control the direction and speed of playback of a video stream is well-known in the art. Claim 43 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Bhatia. Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Brook. These rejections are respectfully overcome for the reasons set forth below.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claims 1, 2, 9-11, 30, and 35 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice)

Claims 1, 2, 9-11, 30, and 35 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice. The Examiner stated that Minakuchi discloses:

“a means for displaying a first content (i.e. “main information”) on a flat display surface within a spherical display ..., means for simultaneously displaying a second content (i.e. “sub-information”) on a spherical display surface within the spherical display ...; and means for scrolling through the second content ... based on instructions while displaying the first content ..., wherein the spherical display surface is imposed over the flat display surface such that the first content and the second content are distinctly and simultaneously viewed.”

The Examiner acknowledged that the spherical display surface of Minakuchi is not a physical spherical display surface. However, the Examiner argued that Fitzmaurice discloses such physical spherical display surface and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice in the direction of claims 1, 2, 9-11, 30, and 35.

Claim 1, as amended, recites (with emphasis added):

1. A method comprising:
displaying a first content on a flat display surface within a spherical display;
capturing the first content with a content capturing device;
simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, **the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device;** and
scrolling through the second content based on instructions while displaying the first content,
wherein the spherical display surface is imposed over the flat display surface such that the first content and the second content are distinctly and simultaneously viewed.

Minakuchi discloses an information retrieval method and apparatus that includes displaying information on a virtual sphere. The sphere is displayed on a display screen, but as shown in FIG. 5, the sphere is merely virtual. The method of Minakuchi is directed to the display of related documents retrieved by a computer system. As the Examiner acknowledged, Minakuchi does not disclose displaying second content on a physical spherical display. Fitzmaurice discloses a dome used in displaying 3-dimensional holographic images, as shown in FIGS. 1-3.

However, the combination of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device*. Both Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice display images that are already in existence. Minakuchi discloses use of purely a virtual globe. Fitzmaurice discloses use of a dome for displaying holographic images. There would therefore be no reason to modify the teachings of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice to include use of a content capturing device. Moreover, because both references fail to show use of a content capturing device, they also necessarily fail to suggest that use of a *spherical display disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device*. By using a spherical display that is disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device, as is required by claim 1, a compact video capturing and display system is realized, as opposed to a large bulky video system having a variety of physically separate parts or sections.

Claim 1 therefore distinguishes over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice, alone or in combination, for the reasons discussed above. Claims 2, 4-10, and 30-34 each depend, directly or indirectly (i.e., through claim dependencies) from claim 1 and therefore also distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice, alone or in combination, for at least the same reasons as those discussed above with respect to claim 1. Claims 11, 26-28, and 35, 37-40, and 42-44 directly or indirectly (i.e., through claim dependencies) contain distinguishing limitations similar to those of claim 1 and therefore also distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice, alone or in combination, for reasons similar to those discussed above with respect to claim 1.

Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1, 2, 9-11, 30, and 35 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claims 4-6 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice and Barbieri)

Claims 4-6 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice and Barbieri. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice does not disclose that the first video content is a video stream or digital image or that the first content is captured with a content capturing

device, However, the Examiner stated that such limitation is disclosed by Barbieri and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art at the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri in the direction of claims 3-6.

Claims 4-6 distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri does not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images. However, Barbieri fails to disclose use of a content capturing device. Instead, the Examiner has alleged that because Barbieri discloses use of video images, such video images would necessarily have been taken with a content capturing device.

However, the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device.* As discussed above, by using a spherical display that is disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device, as is required by claims 4-6 (by virtue of their dependence from claim 1), a compact video capturing and display system is realized, as opposed to a large bulky video system having a variety of physically separate parts or sections.

Claims 4-6 therefore distinguish over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri. Accordingly, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claims 32 and 37 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and the Examiner's Official Notice)

Claims 32 and 37 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and the Examiner's Official Notice. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri fails to teach controlling at least one of direction and speed of a video stream. However, the Examiner took Official Notice that providing the ability to control the direction and speed of playback of a video stream is well-known in the art.

Claims 32 and 37 distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri and the Examiner's Official Notice do not make up for the

deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images. However, Barbieri fails to disclose use of a content capturing device. Instead, the Examiner has alleged that because Barbieri discloses use of video images, such video images would necessarily have been taken with a content capturing device.

The combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and the Examiner's Official Notice does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device*. As discussed above, by using a spherical display that is disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device, as is required by claims 32 and 37, a compact video capturing and display system is realized, as opposed to a large bulky video system having a variety of physically separate parts or sections.

Accordingly, claims 32 and 37 distinguish over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and the Examiner's Official Notice. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 32 and 37 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claims 33 and 38 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Bhatia)

Claims 33 and 38 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Bhatia. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri fails to teach the simultaneous display of multiple video feeds. However, the Examiner stated that such limitation is disclosed by Bhatia and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Bhatia in the direction of claims 33 and 38.

Claims 33 and 38 distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri and the Bhatia do not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. As discussed above, Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images. Bhatia discloses a system and method for displaying a plurality of video streams.

However, the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Bhatia does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously

displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device.*

Accordingly, claims 33 and 38 distinguish over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Bhatia. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 33 and 38 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claims 34 and 39 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Brook)

Claims 34 and 39 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Brook. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri fails to teach a spherical display configured to apply special effects to a portion of displayed content. However, the Examiner stated that such limitation is disclosed by Brook and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Brook in the direction of claims 34 and 39.

Claims 34 and 39 distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri and the Brook do not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. As discussed above, Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images. Brook discloses a method for animating a sprite in a video production comprising a plurality of sequential video frames.

However, the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Brook does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device.*

Accordingly, claims 34 and 39 distinguish over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Brook. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 34 and 39 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claims 7 and 8 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice and Ano)

Claims 7 and 8 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice and Ano. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Ano fails to teach use of instructions for scrolling based on rotating a playback ring or knob. However, the Examiner stated that such limitation is disclosed by Ano and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Ano in the direction of claims 7 and 8.

Claims 7 and 8 distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Ano does not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. Ano discloses a keyboard with a rotary dial.

However, the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Ano does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device.*

Accordingly, claims 7 and 8 distinguish over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Ano. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 7 and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claims 26-28 and 40 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano)

Claims 26-28 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri fails to teach use of instructions for scrolling based on rotating a playback ring. However, the Examiner stated that such limitation is disclosed by Ano and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano in the direction of claims 26-28 and 40.

Claims 26-28 and 40 distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri and Ano do not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. As discussed above, Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images, and Ano discloses a keyboard with a rotary dial.

However, the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device*.

Accordingly, claims 26-28 and 40 distinguish over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 26-28 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claims 26-28 and 40 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano)

Claims 26-28 and 40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri fails to teach use of instructions for instructions for scrolling based on rotating a playback ring. However, the Examiner stated that such limitation is disclosed by Ano and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano in the direction of claims 26-28 and 40.

Claims 26-28 and 40 distinguish over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri and Ano do not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. As discussed above, Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images, and Ano discloses a keyboard with a rotary dial.

However, the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device*.

Accordingly, claims 26-28 and 40 distinguish over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Ano. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 26-28 and 40 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claim 42 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and the Examiner's Official Notice)

Claim 42 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and the Examiner's Official Notice. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri, and Ano fails to teach controlling at least one of direction and speed of a video stream. However, the Examiner took Official Notice that providing the ability to control the direction and speed of playback of a video stream is well-known in the art.

Claim 42 distinguishes over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri, Ano, and the Examiner's Official Notice do not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images, and Ano discloses a keyboard with a rotary dial.

The combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and the Examiner's Official Notice does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device*.

Accordingly, claim 42 distinguishes over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and the Examiner's Official Notice. Therefore, the applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 42 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claim 43 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Bhatia)

Claim 43 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Bhatia. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri, and Ano fails to disclose the simultaneous display of multiple video feeds. However, the Examiner stated that such limitation is disclosed by Bhatia and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Bhatia in the direction of claim 43.

Claim 43 distinguishes over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri, Ano, and Bhatia do not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and

Fitzmaurice. Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images, Ano discloses a keyboard with a rotary dial, and Bhatia discloses a system and method for displaying a plurality of video streams.

The combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Bhatia does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device*.

Accordingly, claim 43 distinguishes over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Bhatia. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 43 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

35 U.S.C. §103(a) rejection – claim 44 (Minakuchi in view of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Brook)

Claim 44 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being obvious given Minakuchi in view of a combination of Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Brook. The Examiner stated that the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, and Barbieri, and Ano fails to disclose a spherical display configured to apply special effects to a portion of displayed content. However, the Examiner stated that such limitation is disclosed by Brook and that it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art the time of the invention to combine the teachings of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Brook in the direction of claim 44.

Claim 44 distinguishes over Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice as discussed above respect to claim 1. Barbieri, Ano, and Brook do not make up for the deficiencies of Minakuchi and Fitzmaurice. Barbieri discloses browsing of a video stream of images, Ano discloses a keyboard with a rotary dial, and Brook discloses a method for animating a sprite in a video production comprising a plurality of sequential video frames.

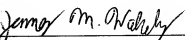
The combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, Ano, and Brook does not suggest *capturing the first content with a content capturing device* or simultaneously displaying a second content on a physical spherical display surface within the spherical display, *the spherical display being disposed in a housing in direct physical communication with the content capturing device*.

Accordingly, claim 44 distinguishes over the combination of Minakuchi, Fitzmaurice, Barbieri, and Brook. Therefore, applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claim 44 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants believe that the foregoing amendments place the application in condition for allowance, and a favorable action is respectfully requested. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Chicago telephone number (312) 577-7000 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,

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